

Appln. No.: 09/740,364
Amendment Dated July 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 23, 2004

MATP-600US

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicant has amended the specification to insert a cross reference to a parent application. A claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 for this application was originally made in the Declaration and Power of Attorney that was executed on December 14, 2000.

The drawings were objected to as containing reference signs that were not mentioned in the detailed description. This ground for objection is overcome by amending the specification to add descriptions of these reference signs. Basis for the amendment may be found in the drawing figures 1 and 3-9. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Claim 2 was objected to as containing a typographical error. This ground for objection is overcome by the amendment to claim 2.

Claims 11, 13, 14, 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohkura et al. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claims 11, 17 and 19. In particular, Ohkura et al. do not disclose or suggest, "displaying a channel matrix having n columns and m rows, the channel matrix including entries representing both available and unavailable channels for one group of channels among a plurality of channel groups; displaying a channel group selector which switches the channel matrix among the plurality of groups of channels to select a current group of channels and to display a channel indicator of a base channel for the current group of channels," as required by claim 11; or a channel matrix that "includes entries for both available and unavailable channels for one group of channels among a plurality of channel groups; [and] means for switching the channel matrix among the groups of channels to select a current group of channels and to display a channel indicator of a base channel for the current group of channels," as required by amended claim 17. Claim 19 includes a similar recitation. Basis for these amendments may be found in the specification at page 8, line 25 through page 9, line 13.

Ohkura et al. describe a television system that allows viewers to select a desired program quickly from among a multiplicity of broadcast programs. The system displays several subsidiary pictures successively under a main picture. When a subsidiary picture is selected, the program corresponding to the subsidiary picture is registered in a bookmark list. (See Abstract).

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The subsidiary pictures that are displayed by Ohkura et al. all represent active programs that may be received by the television receiver. Accordingly, Ohkura et al. do not disclose or suggest displaying a channel matrix that includes entries for both available and unavailable channels or a channel matrix. In addition, Ohkura et al. do not disclose or suggest displaying a channel group selector. Because Ohkura et al. do not disclose or suggest these features of amended claims 11, 17 and 19, these claims are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Ohkura et al. Claims 13 and 14 depend from claim 11 and are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Ohkura et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 11.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Agasse and Lajoie et al. These grounds for rejection are overcome by the amendments to claim 1. In particular, neither Agasse, Lajoie et al. nor their combination discloses or suggests, a channel matrix that "includes entries for both available and unavailable channels for one group of channels among a plurality of channel groups; [and] a channel group selector configured to be activated to switch the channel matrix among the groups of channels to select a current group of channels and to display a channel indicator of a base channel for the current group of channels," as required by amended claim 1.

Agasse, with reference to Figures 8A and 8B describe a "main service menu guide" that is "a grille or mosaic showing the contents of all channels currently being broadcast to the decoder." (See page 20, lines 26-28). Thus, Agasse does not disclose or suggest displaying a channel matrix that includes both available and unavailable channels, displaying a channel matrix that represents a group of channels from among a plurality of channel groups or a channel group selector, as required by amended claim 1.

Lajoie et al. describe a system that allows a viewer to establish a favorites list. Lajoie et al. does not disclose or suggest displaying a channel matrix that includes both available and unavailable channels, displaying a channel matrix that represents a group of channels from among a plurality of channel groups or a channel group selector and, thus, does not provide the material that is missing from Agasse. In addition, Applicant notes that a bookmark is not equivalent to a favorites list. As set forth at page 8, lines 7-17 of the subject application, the present invention can edit both lists of bookmarks and lists of favorite channels. Generally, a bookmark list applies only while a viewer is watching programming. Once the television

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receiver is turned off, the bookmark list ceases to exist. Thus, a bookmark list may contain a number of programs that a viewer wants to cycle through during a particular viewing session. A favorites list, on the other hand, lists all of the viewer's favorite channels and continues across multiple viewing sessions.

Because neither Agasse, Lajoie et al. nor their combination disclose or suggest limitations of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Agasse and Lajoie et al.

Claims 1-7, 11-17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Agasse and Bedard. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claims 1, 11, 17 and 19. In particular, neither Agasse, Bedard nor their combination disclose or suggest, a channel matrix that "includes entries for both available and unavailable channels for one group of channels among a plurality of channel groups; [and] a channel group selector configured to be activated to switch the channel matrix among the groups of channels to select a current group of channels and to display a channel indicator of a base channel for the current group of channels," as required by amended claim 1. Claims 11, 17 and 19 include similar recitations.

Agasse is described above. Bedard was cited as disclosing a method of bookmarking channels. Bedard, however, does not disclose or suggest displaying a channel matrix that includes both available and unavailable channels, displaying a channel matrix that represents a group of channels from among a plurality of channel groups or a channel group selector and, thus, does not provide the material that is missing from Agasse. Accordingly, claims 1, 11, 17 and 19 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Agasse and Bedard. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Agasse and Bedard for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 12-16 depend from claim 11 and are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Agasse and Bedard for at least the same reasons as claim 11.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Agasse, Bedard and Applicant's admitted prior art (APA). This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claim 17, from which claim 18 depends, as described above. Applicant's admitted prior art concerns only the transmission of multiple minor channels within one major

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channel. Thus, the APA does not provide the material that is missing from Agasse and Bedard. Consequently, claim 17 and claim 18 which depends from it, are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Agasse, Bedard and the APA.

Claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Agasse, Bedard and Handelman. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claim 1. In particular, neither Agasse, Bedard, Handelman nor their combination disclose or suggest, a channel matrix that "includes entries for both available and unavailable channels for one group of channels among a plurality of channel groups; [and] a channel group selector configured to be activated to switch the channel matrix among the groups of channels to select a current group of channels and to display a channel indicator of a base channel for the current group of channels," as required by amended claim 1, from which claims 8-10 depend.

Agasse and Bedard are described above. Handelman, discloses a two-dimensional table that "displays programs and shows featuring [sic] at prime time hours at various channels." Handelman's system includes voice recognition capability that allows a viewer to navigate the table using spoken commands. (See col. 30, lines 28-49). Handelman's two-dimensional table, however, does not disclose or suggest displaying a channel matrix that includes both available and unavailable channels, displaying a channel matrix that represents a group of channels from among a plurality of channel groups or a channel group selector and, thus, does not provide the material that is missing from Agasse and Bedard. Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 8-10 which depend from it are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Agasse, Bedard and Handelman.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections to the drawings, the objection to claim 2 and the rejection of claims 1-19.

Respectfully submitted,


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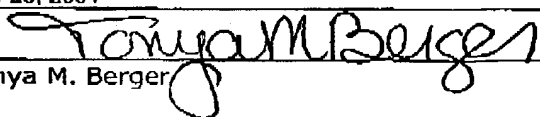
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